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La Guyane Inconnue. Voyage à l'Intérieur de la Guyane Française. Par Albert Bordeaux. Paris, Librairie Plon, 1906. iv-288. (Price, 3.50 fr.)

A tiny map, barely a sketch of the three Guianas—English, Dutch, and French—terminates a well-printed octavo volume. Its modest size is in harmony with the unpretentiousness of the author, and yet the little book has very substantial merits. It is *very* entertaining, has an abundance of local colour, and contains much solid information, mixed, of course, with a few glaring errors of small importance. Mr. Bordeaux, for instance, still believes that the porcupine may detach its quills at will; he is convinced that the condor exists in Guiana, that the tiger or jaguar also bears the name of puma, and the like. We may well pass over such mistakes if we take into account that he has not made the animals of tropical forests his special study, and hence relied upon information from the people who, as everywhere else, are not always the most reliable source. In regard to the tapir, that pachyderm must be much taller in Guiana than in other places, since Mr. Bordeaux, who saw and hunted it, compares it in size with a small horse or with a cow.

Mr. Bordeaux is a mining engineer, and one who has had much practical experience in many parts of the world; Chapter VIII (pp. 107 to 123) gives evidence of it. He knows prospectors as well as promoters and capitalists. But he is, above all, a good observer and an intense lover of nature. Such must be the case, indeed; for he could not otherwise be enraptured with several months of life in dusky forests where nature is an impediment, a constant threat to man. The forests of Guiana teem with life, and in this manner distinguish themselves from the timbered wildernesses of the upper Amazonian region, above the level where the great fluvial arteries begin to furrow the basin of Brazil and Bolivia. To Mr. Bordeaux every branch of organic life appeals, and his descriptions are candid, spontaneously eloquent. He leads us to the gold placers of interior Guiana; we feel with him the inconveniences and serious drawbacks of daily and nightly toil, in a climate where torrential rain is the rule nearly all the year through. But as he never complains and always finds mitigating circumstances for the worst of plights, never tries to make of himself a hero or a victim, our reading of his story is cheering, however uncomfortable the conditions may have been.

His stay in the placers has enabled him to furnish vivid pictures of these establishments, so little known to the outer world. Life in them is not altogether enticing, owing to climatological difficulties; but as the work is performed voluntarily, and for the sake of employment, nobody has a right to complain. He describes the methods, their advantages and drawbacks. We gather that the washings have produced thus far a sum of nearly fifty millions of dollars, all told. The difficulties of transit and transportation and the consequent cost of living are most serious impediments. The production has varied considerably from year to year, the first year yielding more than any of the succeeding ones.

Most instructive are his, tactfully short, remarks on the condition of the exiles, the number of whom he estimates at about six thousand. Those people appear to be, in fact, the favourites of the Government at Cayenne. They work less than others, and are almost excused from any sort of punishment. They have cost, since 1854, sixty millions of francs at least, and their work has hardly produced anything. It is well to treasure the following passages (p. 209): "When a routine lasts fifty or sixty years, and is tied to the changing influence

of a régime, France suffers on her part; there is neither strength nor time to perform durable work." He suggests that the criminals be sent elsewhere, "to the islands of Kerguelen, for instance, south of Africa, where, it is said, there are only seals and a Consul. The climate there is excellent."

These criticisms on the system of deportation and the ridiculous petting of the deported by the French Republic are but the prelude to a concise exposition of the real value of Guiana through its numerous natural resources, which the author cursorily enumerates, and the use which, under the system of government, is made of them. The impression caused by the contrast recalls, in the most striking manner, the conduct of France towards her former colony of Canada. The same neglect, the same abandonment of the most essential interests. Guiana, one of the richest (naturally) regions of the earth, is made to depend, not even on the mother-country, but on its neighbours, and especially on the United States, for most commodities of life. With the exception of gold-dust, it exports almost nothing. France, which consumes annually six to seven hundred tons of rubber, receives, of that amount, only a few tons from its colony of Cayenne, where rubber and the *balata* grow well. Cotton is abandoned, coffee and sugar have to be imported, and the duties which the French Government exacts on all such necessities of life are exorbitant. The number of souls (deported not included) in Guiana is stated at about thirty-five thousand, and the smallness of this number (in proportion to the territory) is generally attributed to insalubrity. There is no doubt that the coast is not healthy; but if we can trust the figures given by Mr. Bordeaux, mortality in Guiana is not by any means as great as in Senegal, in Martinique, and in Guadeloupe. In the former region it is six and seventeen hundredths per cent., on the islands from eight to nine, in Guiana two and a half per cent. Statistics are not an absolutely sure criterion; still, with margin enough for error, the figures are in favour of Guiana.

Recent events in Guadeloupe seem to indicate a state of things in that island similar to what Mr. Bordeaux reports of Guiana.

A. F. B.

The Log of a Sea Angler. Sport and Adventures in Many Seas with Spear and Rod. By Charles Frederick Holder. x and 385 pp. and Index. Houghton, Mifflin and Company, Boston, 1906.

Mr. Holder has long been known as a writer on natural history, and especially on zoological topics. Much of the sea-angling experience recorded in this volume was obtained during the years when the author was one of a party of scientific men who were studying the growth and development of coral reefs off the coasts of Florida and sending collections of corals, fish, shells, and other specimens to the Smithsonian and other institutions. These researches resulted in new discoveries regarding the growth of corals indigenous to the Florida reef; and there was plenty of time, too, for fishing exploits in the summer months, the best time for the sport, though the increasing heat drives most northern anglers home before the finest part of the season begins. Mr. Holder knows how to write for entertainment as well as edification, and his twenty-four chapters on many kinds of sea-game, including the man-eating shark and the Spanish mackerel, afford many vivid glimpses of this kind of diversion. It is agreeable to hear from him that the old dictum is still endorsed, that no gentleman will catch more fish than he knows will be utilized. While his Florida experiences supply the larger part of his reminiscences, he has drawn, also, upon other localities from Maine to Cali-